



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Virtual Economic Development Committee Meeting of November 17th, 2021

PRESENT: Angela Knight van Schaayk Steve Austin
 Jake Lacourse Steven Trahan
 Rod Clouthier
 Greg Kirton, Manager of Planning & Economic Development
 Kari Hanselman, Recording Clerk

EXCUSED ABSENT: Claude Champagne

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Guy Paquette

1. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Motion No. 2021-15

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Rod Clouthier

THAT the draft agenda circulated to the Economic Development Committee dated the 17th day of November 2021 be hereby adopted as amended.

- The agenda was amended by adding item 6.2 2022 Tradeshow

CARRIED

3. **Acceptance of Minutes of the Last Regular Meeting Held on July 21st, 2021**

Motion No. 2021-16

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Rod Clouthier

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Economic Development Committee meeting held July 21st, 2021 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED



4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None for this session

5. Chair's Comments

Chair Lacourse advised this is not the Committee's regularly scheduled meeting as there was no quorum last month. Ms. Mulligan has given her resignation from the Committee and a notice has been posted to fill the vacant position.

6. Updates/New Business – None for this session

6.1 Council Resolution 2021-326 – Return to in person meetings

The Committee discussed their thoughts on returning to in-person meetings and passed the following resolution:

Motion No. 2021-17

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Steve Austin

WHEREAS the Economic Development Committee is in receipt of Council Resolution No. 2021-326 passed at the November 9th, 2021 regular Council meeting which directed all Boards and Committees to return to in-person meetings

AND WHEREAS the Economic Development Committee feels a hybrid model allowing for both virtual and in-person attendance at meetings would respect each committee members comfort levels with regards to COVID19.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Economic Development Committee recommends Council allow the Economic Development Committee to adopt a hybrid model for their quarterly meetings.

CARRIED

6.2 2022 Tradeshow

Mr. Kirton is of the opinion that the Municipality would be safe to plan for an in-person tradeshow for 2022. All safety protocols and procedures would be in place and all attendees would need to be double vaccinated. The Committee agreed with Mr. Kirton and passed the following resolution:



Motion No. 2021-18

Moved by Rod Clouthier

Seconded by Steve Trahan

THAT the Economic Development Committee recommends Council plan for an in-person Tradeshow for 2022 while ensuring all provincial and local COVID19 health protocols and procedures are in place.

CARRIED

7. Action Items:

7.1 Farmstand Tour Follow Up

7.1.1 Next Steps

The Farm Stand Tour was a success. Mr. Kirton thanked Chair Lacourse for all his work. Chair Lacourse will give administrative control of the Facebook page to the Municipality of East Ferris, as per the East Ferris Social Media Policy, for long term operation. The Committee discussed winter content for the spring season and mapping.

The Committee discussed using the farmstand tour page as a way to gauge additional interest for the postponed farmer's market project.

7.2 Short Term Rental Policy

7.2.1 Zoning By-law Prohibition

The Committee discussed Short Term Rentals in East Ferris. Short Term Rental have dominated the conversation at the two meetings that have already taken place regarding the Zoning By-law. The main issues are with owners that have no intention of living at the property and rent out fulltime, which causes disruptions to the neighbourhood. A licensing fee structure with rules and regulations would make it easier to fine those in violation and create a clear set of requirements and expectations.

Motion No. 2021-19

Moved by Angela Knight van Schaayk

Seconded by Steve Austin

WHEREAS the Municipality is in the process of adopting a new Comprehensive Zoning By-law



AND WHEREAS Short Term Rentals are currently prohibited and would be prohibited in the new by-law unless authorized by a zoning by-law amendment

AND WHEREAS Short Term Rentals were discussed in length at both the Open House on October 27th and the Planning Advisory Committee meeting on November 3rd, 2021 and are a point of concerns for residents

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Economic Development Committee recommend to Council that the Planning Advisory Committee consider a permitting structure including licensing fees for Short Term Rentals in the new Comprehensive Zoning By-law rather than an outright prohibition without any other policies.

CARRIED

7.2.2 Other Municipal Examples

Ms. Knight van Schaayk shared an example from Huntsville highlighting their extensive short term rental policies and enforcement structure.

7.3 New Comprehensive Zoning By-law – FYI

7.3.1 <https://eastferris.ca/en/municipal-services/planning-services/new-comprehensive-zoning-by-law>

7.4 Animal Control By-law

7.4.1 Review as per Council direction on looking at policies related to business activity in the community

The Committee discussed the current prohibition of Roosters in the municipality. Committee members will speak with local residents and determine if any economic benefit will arise from allowing roosters in the municipality.

7.5 Winter Quarter Project

7.5.1 Snowmobile Trail Activity

There are still challenges connecting a route from Lake Nosbonsing through Astorville with the inability to get permission from all landowners for trail crossings, but other routes are being explored.



7.5.2 Christmas Market Request

A request for a Christmas Market/Craft show in East Ferris was received. Due to timing, this item will be brought back to the Committee in the fall of 2022.

7.6 East Ferris Vaccination Policy

This item was carried over from the October meeting that quorum was not present for. Committee members were already made aware of the policy.

7.7 East Ferris Economic Development Strategy

7.7.1 Proposal to hire a consultant rather than complete at the committee level

Mr. Kirton suggests the Municipality hire a consultant to update the Economic Development Strategy as opposed to the Committee doing the update. The Committee would review the document for comments. The Committee did not object to Mr. Kirton's suggestion.

8. Ongoing/Unresolved/Inactive Items

8.1 Priority #1 (Internet)

The Committee discussed Netspectrum's progress

8.2 Priority #2 (Update Economic Development Strategy) – Veronica, Angela, Greg

Previously discussed

8.3 Priority #3 (Review Policies) – Greg

No updates at this time.

8.4 Priority #4 (Farmers/Artisan Market) – Jake, Veronica, Greg

8.4.1 Postponed until 2022

8.5 Priority #5 (Light Industrial Park Feasibility) – Greg

Mr. Kirton is just waiting on the final reports from the consultant. Progress has been made with Callander with regards to road access.



9. General Follow Up/Roundtable Discussion

Councillor Trahan advised the Medical Centre is coming along. There will be a grand opening in 2022. Ms. Knight van Schaayk advised the Resilient Communities Fund closes on December 8th. Mr. Paquette advised FEDNOR has a new Minister, and they are full mode of their recovery programs.

10. Adjournment

Motion No. 2021-20

Moved by Rod Clouthier

Seconded by Steven Austin

THAT the Economic Development Committee meeting adjourn at 2:15 p.m.

CARRIED

Next meeting scheduled for January 19th, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK